

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant has amended the specification to correct a minor error.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over USPN 6,418,469 to Justice et al (“Justice”) in view of USPN 6,308,205 to Carcerano et al (“Carcerano”).

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Justice in view of Carcerano.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites a management server having both a status information obtaining part and an information sending part. When the status information obtaining part receives a device-details request from a client device, it obtains status information stored in a status information storing part of a network device. The information sending part then sends information indicating any abnormalities of the network device, which was specified by the specifying part, to the client device that sent the device-details request.

The Examiner acknowledges that Justice fails to teach or suggest the above features, but contends that Carcerano does. However, Applicant believes the Examiner is misapplying and/or misinterpreting the cited reference. For example, Carcerano discloses that when a management system receives a request for status information about a network device from a web browser (or client device), the management system generates a response based on a database in the

management system, rather than on information obtained directly from the specified network device (col. 2, lines 16-20). Therefore, contrary to claim 1, the management system of Carcerano does not obtain status information from a status information storing part provided in the network device, at a time when a request is received from a web browser (client device).

Stated in more detail, management system 109 repeatedly polls each network device in network 1 for configuration information (Fig. 5; col. 10, lines 65-67). Results of the polling operations are stored in database 105 of management system 109 (col. 11, lines 34-37). Therefore, database 105 continuously reflects the current status of network devices in network 1. Then, a requesting station, such as workstation 70 (client device), communicates with management system 109 to obtain status and configuration information of a network device (col. 11, lines 38-45). A response is generated from database 105 of management system 109, and communicated to workstation 70 via browser 83 (col. 11, lines 46-50).

In summary, management system 109 first obtains and stores information from a network device, then, when requested, it sends the information directly to a client device (workstation 70) without referring back to the network device. On the contrary, in claim 1, a client device first requests information from the management server, the management server then communicates with a network device for the requested information, and reports back to the client device.

Accordingly, since Carcerano fails to cure the deficient teachings of Justice, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

B. Claims 4 and 5

Since claims 4 and 5 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 6 and 9

Since the features of claims 6 and 9 are similar to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 6 and 9 are patentable for at least similar reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Justice, Carcerano and USPN 6,360,255 to McCormack et al (“McCormack”).

Claims 2-3, 7-8 and 10-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Justice, Carcerano and further in view of McCormack.

A. Claims 2 and 3

McCormack discloses the performance of automated upgrades (i.e. software upgrades) in network devices through a managed network (col. 2, lines 55-60). For example, a network management server 104 sends interface data to client 106 to provide customized views to allow user 150 to perform software upgrades on network devices 140a-140c in network 108 (Fig. 1A; col. 5, lines 7-11).

Such disclosure fails to teach a management server having both a status information obtaining part and an information sending part which receives a request from a client device,

obtains status information stored in a status information storing part of a network device, and subsequently sends information indicating any abnormalities of the network device to the client device that sent the request.

Therefore, since McCormack fails to cure the deficient teachings of Justice and Carcerano, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

B. Claims 7 and 8

Since claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon claim 6, and McCormack fails to cure the deficient teachings of Justice and Carcerano, as discussed above, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 10 and 11

Since claims 10 and 11 are dependent upon claim 9, and McCormack fails to cure the deficient teachings of Justice and Carcerano, as discussed above, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 12 and 13 to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/541,593

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. Bowles
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 17, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

The device-details screen request is a request containing identification information of the selected printing device 10 (in this embodiment, the identification information is the IP address of the selected printing device 10). The client device [10]30 displaying the device list page sends this device-details screen request when detecting clicking on a device icon. In other words, the device list page supplied from the management server 20 to the client device 30 is an HTML document, which caused the client device 30 to conduct such operations.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 12-13 are added as new claims.